

from London to Melbourne. He has formed lasting friendships not just between individuals but also between organizations that have hugely benefitted all concerned.

This April 28 he retires: at the top of his grade and the top of his form. He goes with the profound thanks of Liz, Tim, Tracey, John, Helen, and Maura for his friendship and his guardianship. And the great good wishes of all manner of New Yorkers for how well he has served us. Only Chuck Bennett would notice odd gestures on street corners and spot an epidemic on its way. Let us hope he returns regularly to New York, keeping an eye on things, and keeping in touch with those of us who love him so.

DR. RODNEY BELCHER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise today to inform the Senate of the tragic death of Dr. Rodney Belcher, an orthopedic surgeon from Arlington, VA, who was murdered in Kampala, Uganda, on March 13.

I was fortunate to have known Dr. Belcher. Seven years ago, shortly after I established the War Victims Fund, a \$5 million appropriation in the foreign aid program to provide medical and related assistance to war victims, Rod Belcher signed on with Health Volunteers Overseas. He had lived in Uganda before the civil war there, and the Agency for International Development sent him back to start a War Victims Fund program to assist people who had been disabled from war injuries. He and his wife Dawn had been there ever since.

There were tens of thousands of amputees, many victims of landmines, without access to artificial limbs. The Mulagro hospital and medical school, once the pride and joy of that country, were in ruins. There were not even basic medical supplies. There was not a single trained orthopedic surgeon in the country. The Ugandan Government was bankrupt.

Rod embraced that enormous challenge with enthusiasm, good humor, patience, and a deep, personal commitment to the Ugandan people. Over the years he won the trust and respect of the Ugandan Government, and of successive United States Ambassadors and the ambassadors of other countries who witnessed the impact he was having on the lives of so many people. He rebuilt the orthopedic clinic and trained every orthopedic surgeon in Uganda today.

When my wife Marcelle and I visited Uganda in 1990, Dr. Belcher took us around the orthopedic clinic. We saw what a difference the War Victims Fund had made, as a result of his efforts and the efforts of the Ugandans who worked with him. It was an experience that neither of us will ever forget. We saw what a difference this one American had made.

Since then I have often thought of that trip, and Rod Belcher became the

model for the volunteers that have been recruited for other War Victims Fund programs. He exemplified what we looked for in others. He had a warmth and gentleness, and a commitment to Uganda that was extraordinary.

Mr. President, on March 13, on his way to his office, Dr. Belcher was murdered when two men stole his car. He was shot in the chest and died right there.

It would be hard to conceive of a more senseless, horrible crime. Rod Belcher was a wonderfully generous human being who devoted his professional life to improving the lives of others. For the past 7 years he lived and worked in a country where getting even the simplest thing accomplished often required incredible ingenuity and persistence. Rod had both.

At his funeral, Dr. Belcher was honored by the Ugandan Vice President, the Minister of Health, the director of the hospital, the dean of the medical school, the American Ambassador, the British High Commissioner, and many others. The orthopedic clinic that he worked so hard to establish was formally named after him. The streets were lined with people who knew him personally or had heard of the American doctor who had done so much for the Ugandan people.

Rod Belcher will be terribly missed. But he leaves a legacy that anyone would be proud of. He gave the War Victims Fund its start, and for that I will always be grateful. And he leaves a core of trained Ugandan orthopedic surgeons who loved and admired him, who will carry on in his place.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

BALANCED BUDGET DOWNPAYMENT ACT, II

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate H.R. 3019. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3019) making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:
Hatfield modified amendment No. 3466, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid amendment No. 3478 (to amendment No. 3466), to restore funding for and ensure the protection of endangered species of fish and wildlife.

Hutchison/Kemphorne amendment No. 3479 (to amendment No. 3478), to reduce funding for endangered species listings.

AMENDMENT NO. 3479

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment of the Senator from Texas to the amendment of the Senator from Nevada is in order.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair advise the Senator from Nevada when I have 5 minutes remaining of the 15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may proceed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have here a letter from the Evangelical Environmental Network consisting of a number of people, including Dr. Robert C. Andringa, president of the Christian College Coalition; Dr. George Brushaber, president of Bethel College and Seminary; Mr. Roger Cross, president of Youth for Christ/USA; Rev. Art DeKruyter, pastor of Christ Church of Oakbrook, and on and on with other religious leaders of this country.

The letter, written to all Senators, says, among other things:

This week the Senate will be voting on an omnibus appropriations bill that contains a subtle attack on God's handiwork. Buried in the legislation is a provision to continue the moratorium on listing plants and animals as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act.

Certainly there are scientific, economic, and medical reasons for saving endangered creatures, but for many individuals and congregations linked to the Evangelical Environmental Network, the moral and spiritual aspects are the more important. The Bible records "the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on Earth" and God affirms that covenant after using Noah to bring the creatures through the Flood and save their lives.

Mr. President, the letter continues:

If I am going to be in the right relationship with God, I should treat the things he has made in the same way he treats them.

The moratorium on listing species is nothing more than a back door attack. While we stand by and do nothing, this supposedly "temporary" measure may stretch over more than two years, with the cost of recovering species becoming greater and greater as time passes.

The moratorium was a bad idea when instituted; it is a bad idea today. . . .

Despite anti-ESA propagandists claim, neither law nor our environmental stance values plants or animals above people. At issue is not favoritism but just and moral treatment of all of God's creatures. God placed us here as stewards, not as exploiters, and we have no right to act in a callous manner toward any living creature.

With respect to the Endangered Species Act, we are compelled to speak out because this matter relates to the core of our faith and respect for God.

Mr. President, I have read only part of the letter, but the indication from these religious leaders is that the moratorium on the Endangered Species Act is wrong and it is immoral.

Mr. President, we have received letters from all over the country, not the least of which is a letter from a group of physicians. I talked about some of the things they said yesterday. But, in effect, what they say is that it is wrong to have this moratorium; it is wrong for health reasons to millions of people throughout the world.

This letter is signed by representatives of the Physicians for Social Responsibility, the National Association